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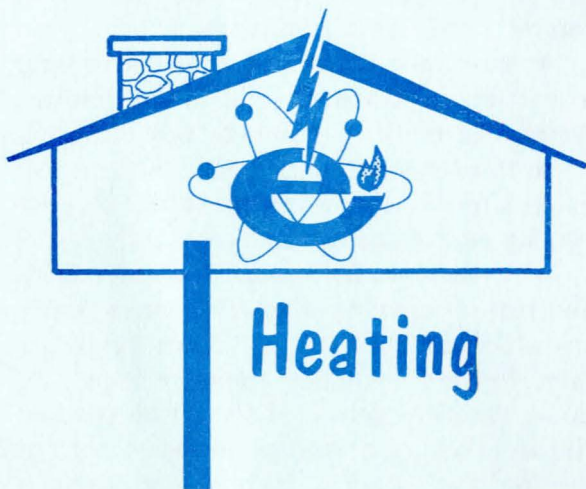
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Energy Conservation in the Home-



Extension Service

University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture Cooperating with the
U. S. Department of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics

E. F. Frolik, Dean

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HEATING

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Energy conservation starts at home! Your home. Individual families can make a contribution.

Heating the home represents a high energy use. Here are a few suggestions you can use to be an "energy conservationist" and still maintain comfort in your home.

- Have your home well insulated to keep in heat in the winter and out in the summer. Walls and attic floors should be well insulated.

- Weatherstrip and caulk around all exterior doors and windows (some of your heating bill may be caused by leakage).

- Prevent air leakage to the attic. Close and seal all openings (including louvers) into the attic. Ceiling fans, pull-down stairways, light fixtures, plumbing vents or pipes, air ducts, stairway doors—all should be checked for air flow. Air leakage increases cost of heating and cooling. It may also cause a moisture condensation problem in an attic that is not well ventilated.

- Tightly close fireplace damper to prevent air flow.

- Install storm windows. They will cut the heat lost through windows. If the house is air-conditioned, keep the storm windows up all summer on windows not used for ventilation.

- Keep all windows and doors shut when the furnace or air-conditioner is working. Don't try to heat the great outdoors!

- Keep an attached garage door closed.
- Don't place objects in front of registers (draperies, furniture, etc.).
- Keep registers and thermostats clean. Dust is an insulator that will disrupt good operation.
- Try to keep the thermostat no higher than 72 degrees in the winter.
- Wear warm clothes in the house. You will be able to lower the temperature.
- Control the winter humidity in the house by using a humidifier. With a higher humidity, you can be comfortable with a lower temperature.
- Keep draperies closed at night. Open draperies at windows that are receiving direct sunlight. Make use of the sun's heat. Select draperies or liners that have insulating properties.
- The color of a room affects the feeling of warmth. Cool color (blues and greens) will make a room feel cooler. Warm colors (yellows and reds) will give it a warm feeling.
- Keep your furnace in good condition.

Oil-Fired Furnace

- Be sure that all oil lines, connections and valves are tight with no leaks.
- Clean oil lines as well as filters. Be sure oil solenoid valve shuts off when burner shuts off.
- Keep soot and rust cleaned from the heat exchange. Soot accumulation 1/8 inch thick can reduce heating efficiency 25%.
- Good draft is needed. Check chimney or exhaust stack for obstructions to exhaust gas flow. Be sure draft stabilizer operates freely and is properly regulated for most efficient fuel oil burning.

- If there is a yellow flame at the burner or excess smoke from the chimney, the burner needs adjustment by a qualified serviceman.

Gas-Fired Furnace

- Remove rust and soot from the heat exchange surface.

- Check air supply to obtain a clear blue flame.

- Leave the pilot lit all summer to reduce corrosion of the heat exchange.

- Replace stacks that have leaks.

- Keep your heating systems in good condition.

Warm Air Systems

- Clean or replace filters regularly.

- Have blower speed and operating time adjusted to get the most heat and comfort from the furnace.

Hot Water or Steam Heating Systems

- Maintain correct water level in the system.

- Insulate steam pipes. Hot water pipes may need insulation, too, if you don't want to heat the space they pass through.

- In hot water systems, check radiator valves; bleed radiators occasionally to let out air.

- In steam system, be sure that air valves on radiators permit rapid discharge of air when heat is on.

- Black radiators are more efficient than white.

Want to know more ways to conserve energy? Contact your County Extension Office for other energy conservation circulars.

EC 73-2025 Energy Conservation in the Home--There Is an Energy Crisis!

EC 73-2026 Energy Conservation in the Home--Kitchen

EC 73-2027 Energy Conservation in the Home--Inside the House

EC 73-2028 Energy Conservation in the Home--Building and Remodeling

EC 73-2029 Energy Conservation in the Home--Cooling

EC 73-2030 Energy Conservation in the Home--Heating

EC 73-2031 Energy Conservation in the Home--Outside the House